



West Lafayette Go Greener Commission
609 West Navajo Street
West Lafayette, IN 47906

West Lafayette Go Greener Commission Meeting

Minutes of Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 6:00 PM

Council Chambers, West Lafayette City Hall

Attending: Allen Jacobsen; Kara Salazar; Thom Davis; Lindsey Payne; Parr Durr; Tom Voight; Peter Bunder; James Britton; Gene Hanus

Absentees: Aparna Puri; Mary Kate Dufair-McKenna; Dave Henderson; Heather Gall

Others: Ann Hunt, Rick Parsons, Dave Downey

Agenda

- I. Allen: Call to order, 6:01 PM
- II. Allen: Approval of minutes
 - a. February minutes, Thom motions to approve, Lindsey seconds, approved
 - b. March minutes, Allen motions to approve, Thom seconds, approved
- III. Allen: Financial Report
 - a. No change, \$4,023 balance
- IV. Allen: 07-13, WL Trash Ordinance
 - a. Heard at April Council reading, passed 5-2, dissenting Peter B and Vicky Birch
 - b. Gene: through March recycling has increased 28% average last year, Jan-Feb-Mar 33%, attributed to increase in bin size
 - c. Ann Hunt: master gardener, compost, recycle
 - Feb 2010: "Pay as you throw" (PAYT) chaired committee to discuss issue—broad group of supporters and dissenters, minutes on web, met often; co-mingling came up often; before second vote, public hearing, many people (roughly 50-50) really didn't want to do the busy work that went with PAYT, others said don't bother, just raise the rates, final vote 4-3
 - Experience: moved on and began discussing other ordinances, also part of the stormwater advisory group, been on council 9-10 years
 - Tried to integrate BMPs, i.e., lids on trash cans, etc.
 - d. James: Question to busy work? Was an educational plan in place?
 - e. Ann: concern was that lady with little amount of trash shouldn't pay the same as a big trash creator, means pay different rates, added paperwork, added inconvenience; talked about education, in news, at public hearing, etc.
 - f. James: pay for water, you should pay for trash
 - g. Ann: the next time we had a work group, so we tried to come up with a different plan; city treasurer said it would still be very hard to track; additionally this fear of others will use other individuals' trash cans



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- h. James: Ireland, \$.22 bag tax, overnight people changed their habits; this new ordinance won't get any behavior change
- i. Thom: PAYT tactic is off the table, so we need to be realistic about what we can do
- j. Parr: is there a better pathway if the Major is open to eventually getting there
- k. Ann: 67% rentals over the entire city; trying to get more large recycle bins out and about; landlords, businesses, schools going to get hit hard with stormwater fee
- l. James: no incentive to mitigate your stormwater if you only add a simple fee/tax
- m. Ann: BMPs in stormwater keep trash covered, keeping water out of bins
- n. James: been 21 years since rates have increased, so this is good
- o. Gene: use private pick up \$16/month with recycling, co-mingled
- p. Peter: interim position would have been a 2-tiered system or make all garbage cans uniform with lids attached, need to upgrade these cans
- q. James: Lafayette has flip, dumpy recycle bins and standard trash toter
- r. Ann: concern with attached lid, should we take out "attached" for just "tight-fitting"
- s. Peter: will be back to this the moment we are hooking all cans up to truck; another issues is apartment recycling; other cities have phased in requirement that all facilities over certain size have to recycle
- t. Ann: stormwater ordinance--written in that they might get stormwater credits--landlords, businesses, schools
- u. Gene: contacted private trash haulers, biggest concern in waste management is loss of parking space, do offer recycling dumpster at half price of trash dumpster; won't do anything until policy tells them to do it
- v. Peter: some new landlords have built this into the system; only because PD can control the parking spaces
- w. Ann: Input
- x. Talked to lots of people; many said raise the rates; big bins input from students, good idea to do after students move out to avoid dumping trash into the bins; serious concerns about enforcing the lids; limited time it can be left at curb; probably will get grief for not picking up grass clippings; placement times for yard waste—need advice; proposed budget for wastewater includes this fee raise; lot of people didn't want PAYT;
- y. Peter: if we wrote a ticket that would end, written as \$50 and \$100 fine
- z. Allen: support enforcement with common sense, fines in place for improper containers and inappropriate placement of pick up items into the public right of way
- aa. Gene: if someone has to pay bins, they will take care of them
- bb. Peter: in my neighborhood the big deal is that the trash from the apartment buildings doesn't fit in the standard bins, might be because they aren't recycling
- cc. Gene: write into the ordinance that apartments must have the city supported bin
- dd. Ann: concern with getting rids of bins



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- ee. Gene: we can recycling them
- ff. Tom: going to have to standardize these bins anyway, might as well do it right now
- gg. Gene: in order to get efficiencies need to get standard bins, landlords are the target
- hh. Tom: forget the standardized one, where do you buy them, are they commercially available?
- ii. Gene: If it was a good idea at one point but didn't pass does that mean it's a bad idea?
No
- jj. Allen: impediment to the ordinance still exists; Mayor will still veto, we aren't there yet; we have a service that people are already happy with; so it's hard to change; this ordinance is addressing the financial deficient of the system we have not going beyond that; just a band-aid; we need to look forward and figure out how we plan for next evolution? Lids need to be reasonably workable with devices people have now
- kk. Tom: why do we recycling? We recycling because we have limited landfill, we compete with others for it, costs are going up, if we want to get to the next phase, 1) educate along that line—save money, save penguins, space is disappearing, so...in next ordinance emphasize those issues—the economics of it
- ll. Gene: if all we are doing is increasing the fee, then just increase the fee, save the ordinance until we have the "business" explanation to accompany it
- mm. James: this was all news to us so what is the point of us as a committee if we aren't aware of this ordinance and aren't providing input
- nn. Peter: you will have us much influence as you are willing to work for, you can be as independent and strong-minded as you want to be; so say something
- oo. Tom: perhaps we could focus ourselves? Stormwater? Solid Waste?
- pp. Allen: do we need to form a sub-committee?
- qq. Ann: council would benefit from receiving the graphs on recycling; can also go to neighborhood association coalition and talk to them about this
- rr. Dave Downey: work with the neighborhoods, start with schools, we aren't doing everything, but we are getting there; got to get out there in the neighborhoods and get people want what you want—start with associations
- V. Sustainability Report & Metrics – Completion of Summary Report
 - a. Allen: would like to finalize at next meeting, please review
- VI. Organization for Green Events for Summer 2013
 - a. Lindsey: will follow up with Brawlin' Dolls about event
 - b. Allen: has subcommittee met? First even is mid-July [Identified events we felt we could manage (Riverfest, July 13, we will have a booth & canoe; Outfest, Aug 17, TBA, Allen would be willing to contact organizers; Beers Across the Wabash, Aug 24, 12-5, contact Greg Immick, Chris Johnson, James is on committee; Global Fest, Aug 31, TBA, contact Penny Answorth; Art on Wabash, Sept 15, 10-4)]



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VII. New Business / Announcements

- a. Allen: working with Dave Henderson on Clean Community Challenge, end of first cycle, planning for next 3-year cycle, application due in mid-August; ideas—green building policy/ordinance for city or increasing local food production and distribution; please review and comment
- b. Lindsey: Ford-Purdue Cary Home planting event, April 6, 175 volunteers, 9,000 plants plugs

VIII. Adjournment, 7:55 PM

- a. Allen motions to adjourn, Lindsey seconds, adjourned.

Next meeting May 14, 2013, 6:00 PM!

Recorded by Lindsey Payne and submitted to Allen Jacobsen on April 9, 2013.